

It's that time again...

If you still have the envelope this newsletter came in, look on the mailing label. Behind your name within the parens is the last date of your paid membership. If this year is prior to 2009, it's time to pay those annual FCCB \$15.00 Dues! For those with expired membership you'll find a self-addressed envelope in your newsletter to help direct your payment to our Treasurer, David Treter.

Too often people read this, set the newsletter or envelope aside and promptly forget about it. And then in 6-months when they no longer receive the newsletter and get a so-long letter instead, I'm always told that they didn't realize they hadn't paid their dues. So I've changed the format of the mailing label to always include the year your dues are paid-up. Hopefully this will help.

But wait! Unlike your annual tax return you can actually stop having to send-in payment every year to FCCB! The solution is the new, FCCB Lifetime Membership! What a deal! For \$200 you can do away with this annual ritual! So instead of mailing a payment of \$15, simply send a check for \$200 and you'll be set for life! Now's the time to take advantage of this special offer, so don't wait!

Memphis Exhibit Applications Due...

I recently received a letter from my friend Martin Delger, reminding me it's time to submit my application for the exhibits at Memphis. While I always enjoy numismatic exhibits, the exhibits put on by the fractional collectors at the Memphis show are, in my opinion, the highlight of the show! Several folks always come-up with some interesting topics, and I always wonder where in the heck do they come-up with that wonderful material!

I always enjoy researching topics related to postage and fractional currency. I'm constantly learning new things and also enjoy re-discovering research others have done, whether it was 10 years ago, or 140 years ago! I encourage you to submit an exhibit application, come to Memphis and share an aspect of your collecting interest with others! You can join us at the annual FCCB meeting, attend the fun-filled SPMC breakfast and enjoy the fellowship of other collectors. To help, you'll find the exhibitor rules along with an application form in our newsletter. See you there!

Fractionally Yours,

FCCB
c/o Jerry Fochtman
2818 Mountain Green Trail
Kingwood, TX 77345
(281) 361-8948
jfochtman@bradmark.com

TREASURY DEPARTMENT

FUN In the Sun...

As usual, it was quite enjoyable to leave the frigid climes of east Tennessee and make my annual trek to Florida. FUN affords me an opportunity to socialize with several dealer and collector friends. It's always a pleasure to visit with dealers Tom Denly, Hugh Schull and Rob Kravitz – although I think Rob enjoyed my brother-in-law Nick's company more than mine. Nick is very familiar with the Orlando area and took Rob to one of the better steakhouses (Charley's Steakhouse) in the country (I don't think that even Rob could consume their 50 oz. filet mignon). I enjoyed having a wonderful dinner with Art Paradis, Benny Bolin and Art's family. I'm sure my dining pleasure was equal to Nick and Rob's.

I found the bourse to be rather disappointing. Much of the fractional that I found was either over graded or grossly overpriced. I did, however, find a counterfeit note (three known) and a nice satirical for Jerry Fochtman. Although the auction contained hundreds of fractional notes, much of it consisted of esoteric material, which is one of my lesser interests. The majority of the fractional was slabbed and, although I feel third-party grading is good for the hobby, I was disappointed that Heritage had to identify one third-party graded note as misattributed. I found two other misattributed fractional notes that Heritage missed and purchased both of them.

The fact that three incorrectly attributed notes came from two grading companies was rather disheartening. Does this serve to undermine the value of third-party grading? Why does misattribution occur? Were there other attribution errors throughout the catalogue? I would hope that in the future auction houses and grading services would institute better safeguards and controls to protect the buying/collector public.

Until next time,

Mike



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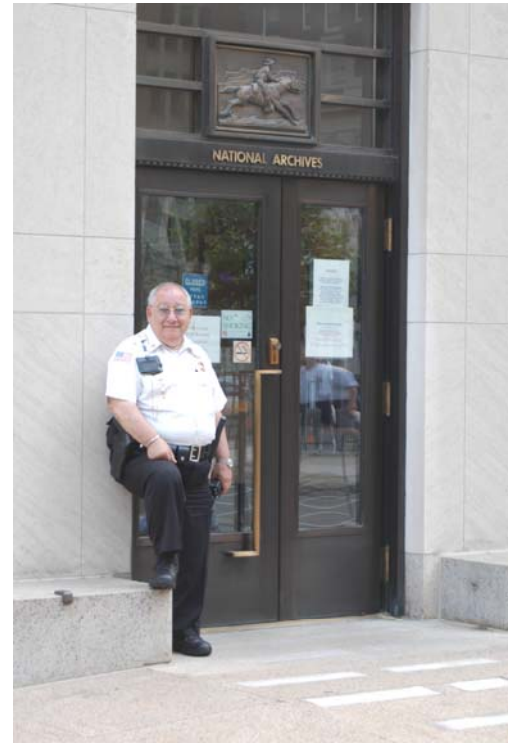
CA Bond #RSB2004175; CA Auctioneer Bonds: Samuel Foose #RSB2004178; Robert Korver #RSB2004179; Bob Merrill #RSB2004177; Leo Frese #RSB2004176; Jeff Engelen #RSB2004180.
This auction subject to a 15% buyer's premium.

Spinner Documents found in the Philadelphia National Archives

By
Steve Shupe

During a recent visit to the Philadelphia area on the way to see the inauguration of Barrack Obama, I had a chance to visit the National Archives for 2 days. I am working on a book on Trimes, fractional currency of the round metal type. The Archives in Philadelphia is officially known as the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) Mid-Atlantic Region facility. The archives are located in the Robert Dix Federal Building downtown. To use the Archives, you must have a researcher's card which is easy to get after filling out some paperwork. The documents are stored in the basement area under the main floor.

They have hundreds of thousands of documents from the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia. Although the public is not allowed in the storage area, the archivist supplied the enclosed picture.



Entrance to the Archives



Stack in the Archives, NARA Mid-Atlantic Region

Similar to many libraries, you request the documents that you are looking for by filling out a pull form. Once they pull your items, they will bring them to you on a cart. Sign for them and they are yours to use. In the reading room you have a table to use and are limited to having one box at a time open.

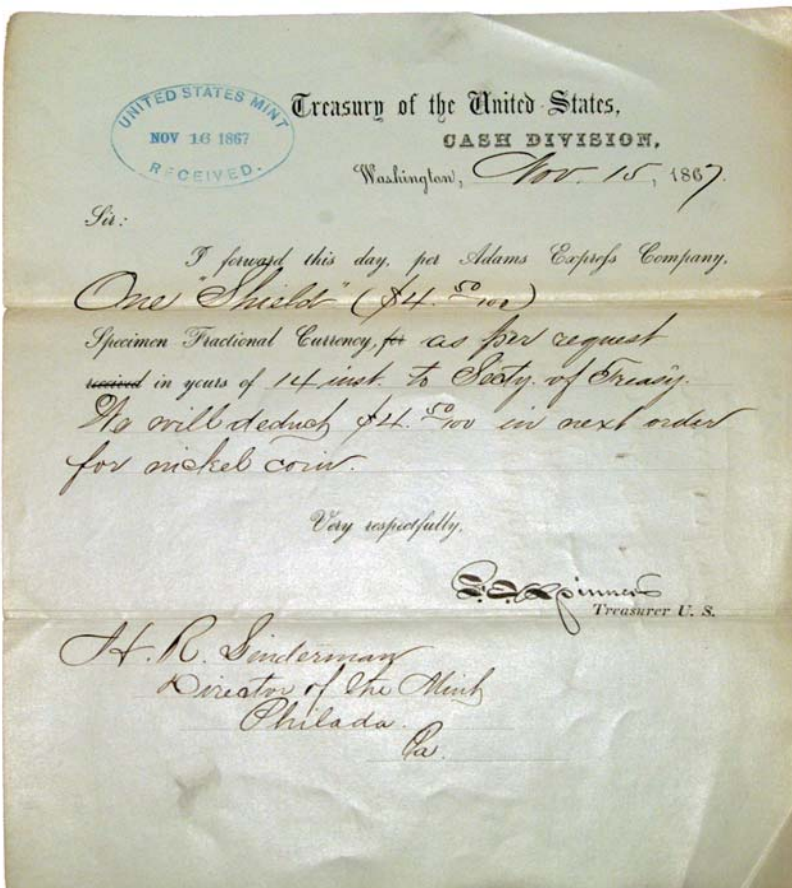
You are allowed to handle all documents, (with few exceptions), Photograph them (without flash), and copy them. You can record notes with pencil and paper or use a computer. I found it best to photograph them for later use. I also copied many of the documents as well. Most of the documents that I have been researching are hand written letters, which can lead to sore eyes from the many hours deciphering the handwriting! Some of the documents are easy to read, others not so much. Some are written on fine linen and cotton paper almost as fresh as the day it was made, others are tissue paper thin, brown and fragile. On some the ink is still bold and bright, others are faded and all but illegible. Some are bound in books, and others are folded in the original envelope. A few of the envelopes still have the stamp on them, however many have been cut off and taken over the years. Talk about holding history in your hands! One of the interesting documents was a letter with a counterfeit note that was confiscated.



Reading table in the Archives reading room

I was researching the #7 "General Correspondence 1792-1899" textual Records, Record Group 104.1. The documents below were found in ARC identifier #561197, box 87. This group of documents includes 203 boxes of the type shown above. Luckily for us, the documents are at least grouped in order by date. I won't need to go through all 203 boxes to find the information that I need, but I will need to go through about 50-60 of them. Each box takes about 2 hours.

In the boxes 81-88, I found several documents signed by Spinner. As a Fractional currency collector, I found these interesting. With his bold signature some of these were easy to spot. The first document found was one that I thought would most interest the members of FCCB. It is dated November 15, 1867 and is a partly written by hand.



Apparently the Director of the Mint H.R. Linderman made a request for a Fractional Shield for use in the Mint. This letter is in response to that request and states: " Sir, I forward this day, by Adams Express Company ONE "SHIELD" (\$4.50). Specimen Fractional Currency as per request in yours of 14th instant to Secretary of Treasury. We will deduct \$4 50/100 in next order for Nickel coin. Signed F.E. Spinner, Treasurer U.S. Let's see, only \$4.50 for a shield, I'll take about a dozen! With a current value of several thousand dollars each, they have gone up a little in value!

Spinner letter responding to request for a Fractional Shield

As many members know, the Fractional Shield come with three background colors, gray, pink and green, with the green being the most valuable. Was the shield a very rare green one?

Rare green background Fractional Currency Shield sold by Heritage Auctions, in the Long Beach Signature Auction #386 as lot #15607



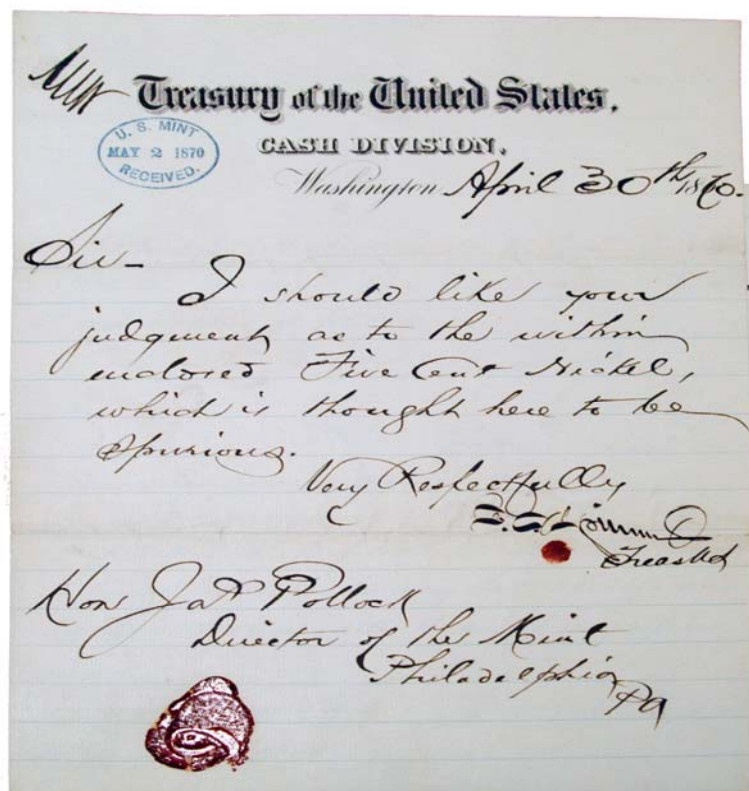
Other letters include:

- One wanting to know if any cents were produced in 1804 and 1815 and if there were, how to acquire one of each.
- One dated August 20th 1868, requesting how much American silver fractional coinage could be had for \$100 in Mexican silver dollars.
- Another requesting the average net result in American Gold for recoinning English Sovereigns.
- Yet another requesting the average net result in American Gold for recoinning Spanish Doubloons.
- One dated February 17th 1870 wanting to know if the circular to buy nickel coinage (cents and 3-cent pieces) was still in effect.

The last letter presented is also an interesting one. In a letter dated April 30th of 1870, Spinner requested the opinion of the Mint Director as to the validity of a Nickel five-cent coin presented with the letter that was thought spurious. The Mint Director had the coin tested and the following note was found in the archives; " W. Hickok will please write to Treasurer Spinner, that the counterfeit five-cent piece sent by him was composed as follows:

Nickel	13	per cent
Zinc	26	" "
Copper	61	" "
	100	per cent

There is no zinc in genuine coin. This piece being right in color and weight, and the dies well executed. There seems to be no protection for any but skilled and careful observers with the aid of magnifiers."



Complete Set of Fractional for \$30!

Wayne Holmen, FCCB Member and editor of E-Sylum, the weekly newsletter of the Numismatic Bibliomania Society sent this old advertisement from R. W. Mercer's Natural History Store to share with our members. If you've been collecting anything for very long, you've most probably heard the phrase "...buy the book before you buy the coin." The Numismatic Bibliomania Society is a membership group similar to FCCB which promotes the use and collecting of numismatic literature. It's a great source for information on dealers and auctions on all sorts of numismatic materials. I have also found the members to be extremely helpful if you're doing research and are looking for information.

I encourage you to visit their web site at www.coinbooks.org , visit their E-Sylum newsletter archive and consider joining their e-mail list. Be sure to tell Wayne that I sent ya!

PRICE LIST OF

United States Fractional Currency.

ALL NEW AND CLEAN.

FIRST ISSUE POSTAGE STAMP CURRENCY.

50 Cents, perforated edge.....\$1.50	50 Cents, unperforated edge.....\$1.25
25 " " " ".....1.00	25 " " " "......75
10 " " " "......50	10 " " " "......30
5 " " " "......40	5 " " " "......20

SECOND ISSUE.
Head of Washington, gilt ring in centre.

50 Cents.....\$1.25	10 Cents.....\$.40
25 "......75	5 "......20

THIRD ISSUE.

Fifty cents, vignette, Goddess of Liberty.....\$1.00	Five cts., vignette, head of Clark\$.50
Same, with red back..... 2.00	Same, with red back..... 1.00
Red back, autographic signature 3.00	Three cents, head of Washington .20
Twenty-five cents, vignette, head of Fessenden..... .50	Fifty cents, head of Spinner..... 1.00
Same, with red back..... 1.00	Same, with red back..... 2.00
Ten cents, vignette, head of Washington..... .50	Red back, autographic signature 3.00
Same, with red back..... 1.00	Same, different green back..... 1.25
" autographic signature..... 2.50	Fifteen cents, heads of Grant and Sherman, with green back.. 3.00
	Fifteen cents, heads of Grant and Sherman, with red back..... 3.00

FOURTH ISSUE.

50 Cents, head of Lincoln.....\$1.00	15 Cents, head of Liberty.....\$.25
50 " " Stanton..... 1.25	10 " " " "......20
25 " " Washington... .50	

FIFTH ISSUE.

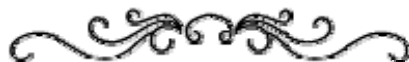
50 Cents, head of Dexter\$.75	10 Cents, head of Meredith, green seal.....\$.50
25 " " Walker......50	50 Cents, head of Crawford.. .75
10 " " Meredith, red seal25	

Will furnish the complete set as above for Thirty Dollars.

When less than one dollar is ordered send green stamp for postage. No trade taken for goods on this List.

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Gem Second Issue Notes with clear surcharges
Attractive and broadly margined Spinner notes
All Justice varieties
High grade Washington, Lincoln and Stanton Notes
ALL WIDE AND NARROW MARGIN SPECIMENS
ALL GRANT – SHERMAN SPECIMENS

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I am a member of the Professional Currency Dealers Association, Society of Paper Money Collectors, Fractional Currency Collectors Board, and American Numismatic Association.

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I am one of the most conservative graders in the hobby (ask anyone who has ever dealt with me).

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Very competitive rates offered – I am at every major paper money auction

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Check out my full-page ad on *page 17* in every issue of the Bank Note Reporter.

WANT LISTS SERVICED

I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

Marchioni Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

Gengerke Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

O'Mara Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

O'Mara Fr. 1371 Choice AU

James Polis

4501 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 306

Washington, D.C. 20008

(202) 363 – 6650

Jpolis7935@aol.com

(Current Membership List Information Removed)

Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical
Notes and other Rare Fractional
Items for Historical Collection Effort.

Jerry Fochtman
jfochtman@bradmark.com
713/513-9309

Researcher/Collector interested in
ALL fractionals with inverted or
mirrored plate numbers. If you have
one (for sale or research) please e-
mail riconio@yahoo.com or call
818/591-2326.
Thanks – Rick Melamed.

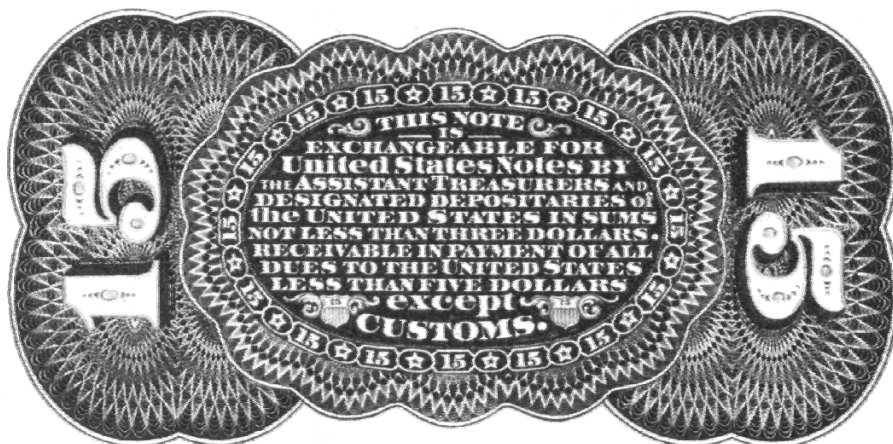
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Mike Marchioni
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MEMPHIS COIN CLUB INTERNATIONAL PAPER MONEY SHOW

P.O. BOX 17871
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38187-0871

DEADLINE MAY 27, 2009

Dear

The 33rd International Paper Money Show will be held in Memphis on June 26-28, 2009. I am looking forward to being involved with exhibiting!

The exhibit area has become a paper money museum with many excellent and outstanding exhibits. We have been told by many dealers who also attend paper money shows abroad that the Memphis Show has the largest display of paper money related anywhere they have attended. I want to keep the exhibits top quality for people to view. The bottom of the exhibit cases must be covered neatly. The exhibit must be interesting, informative and eye appealing to viewers.

In thirty years as Exhibit Chairman I have found that most exhibitors have built excellent exhibits. Few exhibitors have been asked to make improvements.

The Memphis Coin Club has been very generous in awarding each exhibitor with a beautiful plaque, if desired. The exhibitors also have the advantage of being allowed to be in the bourse area before the public.

The exhibits will again be non-competitive. However, to encourage exhibitors to assemble outstanding exhibits, there will be awards judged and presented by different organizations to exhibitors in different categories of collecting.

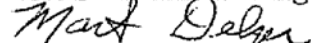
Exhibits may not be exhibited more than once without significant changes.

Please send in your exhibit application as soon as possible. We have expanded the exhibit area for more exhibits if needed. We do not want to turn anyone away because of lack of space. Also, we need to order plaques and make the "Exhibits Layout" after exhibit applications are received.

Exhibits may not be removed until one hour before closing on Saturday. If early departure is necessary, please notify the Exhibit Chairman.

We are looking forward to hearing from you and having you and your exhibit in Memphis.

Yours in Exhibiting,


Mart Delger, EXHIBIT CHAIRMAN
9677 Paw Paw Lake Drive
Mattawan, MI 49071
PH. 269-668-4234

MEMPHIS COIN CLUB

INTERNATIONAL PAPER MONEY SHOW

P.O. BOX 17871
MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE 38187-0871

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Title of Exhibit _____

Type of exhibit if not identified in title: Nationals, Foreign, Obsloetes, Etc.

State number of 22" X 34" cases to be used: Your own _____, or Memphis Coin Clubs _____.
(A limit of 7 cases per exhibitor requested). 21.5 X 33.5 inside.

You are encouraged to include information to educate and interest all viewers.

All exhibits must include currency, currency proofs or specimens. Stock Certificates vignettes, etc. are permitted to compliment the currency.

Exhibitors must wear exhibitors badges, available at the registration table and may set up exhibits beginning 4 PM, June 25 and ending at 9 PM that night and at 8 AM, June 26.

Deadline for exhibits entries is May 27, 2009. Please enter as soon as possible.

Security will be provided for the protection of exhibits during the convention. The Exhibit Chairman, Show Chairman, Memphis Marriott Downtown, Security Company, or anyone connected in any way, directly or indirectly with the IMPS assumes any liability, expressed or implied, or presumed in any way for the exhibits. This also includes coming to, during, and returning after the show.

All exhibit case bottoms must be covered with an eye appealing material and title and important numismatic and historical information must be included so as to be educational for the viewer.

Exhibits may be removed no earlier than one hour before closing on Saturday to accommodate early departure on Sunday. Please notify Exhibition Chairman if early removal is necessary.

I hereby agree to exhibit in accordance with the exhibit rules, and fully comply therewith. I have also read and agree to the release for liability.

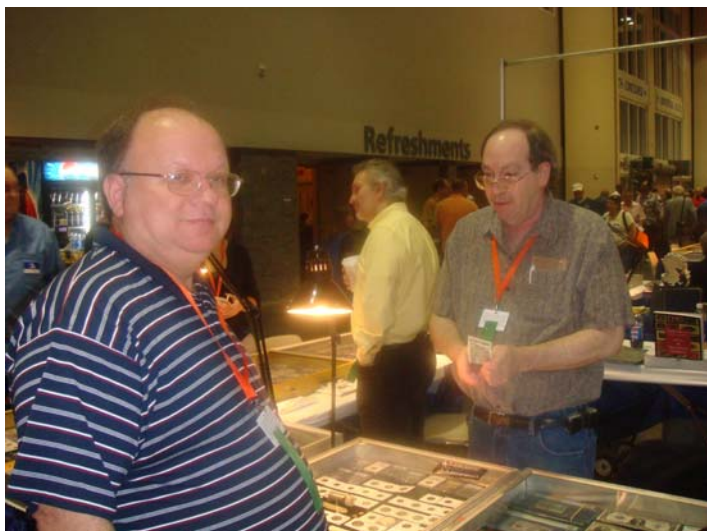
Signed _____

Do you desire a plaque? Yes ___ No ___

Mail entries to: Mart Delger-EXHIBIT CHAIRMAN Phone 269-668-4234
9677 Paw Paw Lake Drive
Mattawan MI 79071

FCCB Members at FUN...

*Pictures By
Art Paradis*



FCCB Member and SPMC President Benny Bolin catching-up with dealer/FCCB Vice President Rob Kravitz

FCCB member Chuck Armstrong checking the catalog before the Heritage auction



FCCB member Lou Desantis bartering with Rob Kravitz

